

REMARKS**I. General**

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 6, 9-11 and 19 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability for claims 6, 9-11 and 19. Applicant hereby traverses the outstanding rejections and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks and amendments contained herein.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the use of two controllers. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, including paragraphs [0011] and [0012] and Figures 1-6. Claims 4-8 are amended to be consistent with the amendment to claim 1. Claims 9 and 12 are amended to fix obvious typographical errors. The amendments to claims 9 and 12 are only made to correct the errors, and are not to limit the scope of the claims in view of prior art. No new matter has been entered.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 12-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,194,969 to Doblar (“Doblar”).

It is well settled that to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. M.P.E.P. § 2131. Moreover, in order for a reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, “[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim.” See M.P.E.P. § 2131, citing *In re Bond*, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Furthermore, in order for a reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” See M.P.E.P. § 2131, citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

A. Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 is amended to recite “at least one second controller; said first controller and second controller operable for substituting signals ...” Doblar does not disclose at least this element of claim 1. That is, Doblar does not disclose a second controller that operates with a first controller to substitute control signals. The Office Action points to column 3, lines 27-35, stating “It is noted that [Doblar] indicates that there exists a controller on each board.”

However, rather than indicating two controllers, Doblar merely discloses that a single controller may be split between boards. Specifically, column 3, lines 31-32 states “a portion of the system controller 110 may be comprised on each board.” Applicant notes that a single controller with portions comprised on separate boards is not two controllers. Therefore, Doblar does not teach at least one second controller, wherein a first controller and the second controller are operable for substituting signals, as required by the claim.

Further, claim 1 also recites “a first control signal source co-located with a first set of control signal controlled circuit elements; at least one second control signal source co-located with a second set of control signal controlled circuit elements.” Doblar does not disclose at least this element of claim 1, either. That is, Doblar does not disclose control signal sources co-located with circuit elements controlled by the control signal. The Office Action points to “components on system board 120, fig. 1.”

Applicant notes that components on system board 120 are on a different board than the clock signal sources which are located on clock boards 105A and 105B. Therefore, Doblar does not teach a first control signal source co-located with a first set of control signal controlled circuit elements and at least one second control signal source co-located with a second set of control signal controlled circuit elements, as required by the claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1 and asserts that claim 1 is allowable for, at least, the reasons stated above.

B. Independent Claim 12

Claim 12 recites “distributing control signals among a plurality of electronic boards, each electronic board having associated therewith control signal controlled circuitry” and “control signals originating from a first and second one of said electronic boards.” Doblar

does not disclose at least this aspect of claim 12. That is, Doblar does not disclose control signal sources located on the same board as the circuit elements controlled by the control signal. The Office Action points to “components on system board 120, fig. 1.”

Applicant notes that components on system board 120 are on a different board than the clock signal sources which are located on clock boards 105A and 105B. Therefore, Doblar does not teach distributing control signals among a plurality of electronic boards, each electronic board having associated therewith control signal controlled circuitry and control signals originating from a first and second one of said electronic boards, as required by the claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 12 and asserts that claim 12 is allowable for, at least, the reasons stated above.

C. Independent Claim 16

Claim 16 recites “a clock source on at least two of said electronic boards … a controller on each of said boards.” Doblar does not disclose at least this aspect of claim 16. That is, Doblar does not disclose at least two controllers. The Office Action points to column 3, lines 27-35, stating “It is noted that [Doblar] indicates that there exists a controller on each board.”

However, rather than indicating two controllers, Doblar merely discloses that a single controller may be split between boards. Specifically, column 3, lines 31-32 states “a portion of the system controller 110 may be comprised on each board.” Applicant notes that a single controller with portions comprised on separate boards is not two controllers. Therefore, Doblar does not teach at least at least two controllers as required by the claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 16 and asserts that claim 16 is allowable for, at least, the reasons stated above.

D. Independent Claim 20

Claim 20 recites “interconnecting said electronic circuits with dual independent clock signal transmission facilities” and “providing to the input of a controller on each electronic circuit a clock signal generated local to said controller” Doblar does not disclose at least this aspect of claim 20. That is, Doblar does not disclose at least two controllers. The Office Action points to column 3, lines 27-35, stating “It is noted that [Doblar] indicates that there exists a controller on each board.”

However, rather than indicating two controllers, Doblar merely discloses that a single controller may be split between boards. Specifically, column 3, lines 31-32 states “a portion of the system controller 110 may be comprised on each board.” Applicant notes that a single controller with portions comprised on separate boards is not two controllers. Therefore, Doblar does not teach at least at least two controllers as required by the claim.

Claim 20 also recites “the output of said controller supplying clock signals for circuitry local to said controller.” Doblar does not disclose at least this element of claim 20, either. Doblar does not disclose clock signal sources co-located with circuits that are supplied with the clock signals. The Office Action points to “components on system board 120, fig. 1.”

Applicant notes that components on system board 120 are on a different board than the clock signal sources which are located on clock boards 105A and 105B. Therefore, Doblar does not disclose a first control signal source co-located with a first set of control signal controlled circuit elements and at least one second control signal source co-located with a second set of control signal controlled circuit elements.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 20 and asserts that claim 20 is allowable for, at least, the reasons stated above.

E. Dependent Claims

Claims 2-11, 13-15 and 17-19 each depend from a respective one of claims 1, 12 and 16, and thus inherit all limitations of their respective base claim. Each of claims 2-11, 13-15 and 17-19 therefore sets forth features and limitations not taught or suggested by Doblar.

Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2-11, 13-15 and 17-19 are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of record.

III. New Claims

New claims 21-28 are added herein. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification, including paragraph [0019] and Figure 5. These claims are believed to be patentable over the art of record. For example, independent claim 21 recites, in part, “wherein the controller of the first node operates in tandem with the controller of the second node to alternatively select between the control signal sources of the first and second node to supply a control signal to the first set and second set of circuit elements.” Doblar does not disclose at least this element of claim 21.

Claims 22-28 depends from claim 21, and thus inherit all the limitations of claim 21. Applicant asserts the for at least the reason given above for claim 21, claims 21-28 are patentable over the art of record.

IV. Summary

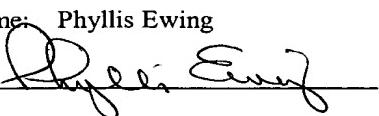
In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200313420-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV629199479US in an envelope addressed to: M/S Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

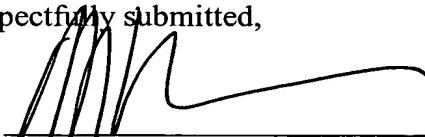
Date of Deposit: 09/06/2005

Typed Name: Phyllis Ewing

Signature: 

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Michael A. Papalas
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 40,381
Date: 09/06/2005
Telephone No. (214) 855-8186